

Appl. No. 10/527,737

Art Unit: 1655

Response dated January 26, 2007

Reply to Office action of December 26, 2006

**In the Claims:**

Please enter the following amended claims in the application. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A method comprising:

(a) providing a preparation comprising at least one substance which effects a modulation of one or more dermal/epidermal junction components selected from the group consisting of plectin/HD1, entactin/nidogen, perlecan and combinations thereof; and

(b) applying the preparation to a substrate selected from the group consisting of skin, scalp, mucous membrane and combinations thereof.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises a plant extract.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the plant extract is obtained from a plant selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol,

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cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation comprises two or more substances which effect a modulation of one or more dermal/epidermal junction components selected from the group consisting of plectin/HD1, entactin/nidogen, perlecan and combinations thereof.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises two or more plant extracts obtained from plants selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation further comprises a component having anti-protease activity.

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Claim 21 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of UV protection factors, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation comprises a *Ruscus aculeatus* root extract, a *Centella asiatica* extract, a *Calendula officinalis* flower extract, and a *Aesculus hippocastanum* extract and a *Hibiscus esculentus* extract.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 22, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, panthenol, a hydrolyzed yeast protein, ammonium glycyrrhizate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises a hydrolyzed *Hibiscus esculentus* extract.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): A cosmetic preparation comprising: (a) at least one substance which effects a modulation of one or more dermal/epidermal junction components selected from the group consisting of plectin/HD1, entactin/nidogen, perlecan and combinations thereof; and (b) a component selected from the group consisting of UV protection factors, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 25, wherein the at least one substance comprises a plant extract.

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Claim 27 (Previously presented): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 26, wherein the plant extract is obtained from a plant selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 25, wherein the at least one substance comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): A cosmetic preparation comprising two or more plant extracts obtained from plants selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 29, wherein the two or more plant extracts comprise a *Ruscus aculeatus* root extract, a *Centella asiatica* extract, a *Calendula officinalis* flower extract, and a *Aesculus hippocastanum* extract and a *Hibiscus esculentus* extract.

Claim 31 (New): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 27, wherein the plant extract is obtained from *Hibiscus esculentus*.